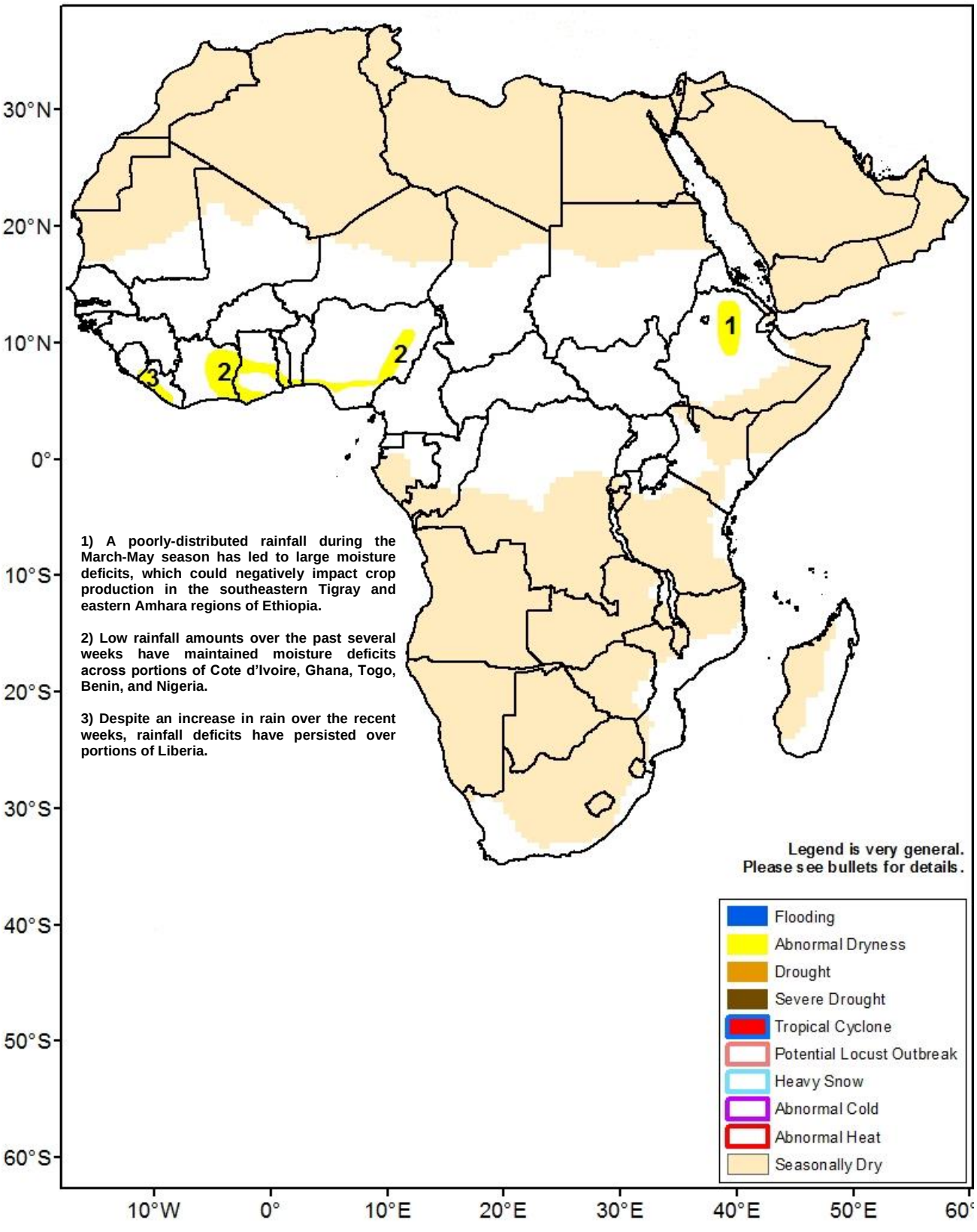
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
June 28 – July 4, 2018

- **Poor rain over the past several weeks has led to an abnormal dryness along the Gulf of Guinea countries.**
- **A delayed onset of the March-May season and dry spells resulted in abnormal dryness in northern Ethiopia.**



Enhanced rain fell over many areas of West Africa during the past week

During the past seven days, an increase in rainfall was observed over a number of areas of West Africa. Torrential rain fell along the Gulf of Guinea, including Cote d'Ivoire, parts of Ghana, Togo, portions of Benin, Nigeria, and Chad (**Figure 1**). Rainfall amounts in excess of 25 mm were also registered throughout the Sahel region, encompassing Mali, Burkina Faso, and southern Niger. Though, reduced rain was observed over the far western portions of West Africa, including southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and western Mali. Over the Sahel, the observed, favorable rainfall distribution was attributable to a near-normal position of the Inter-Tropical Front since mid to late May.

Since late May to present, positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies were observed over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Cote d'Ivoire, central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, southern Niger, Chad, and parts of western and southern Nigeria. However, negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies persisted over areas of the Gulf of Guinea, including eastern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, southern Togo, southern Benin, and east-central Nigeria. Farther north, rainfall deficits have emerged over The Gambia, southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and western Mali following this past week's limited rain. A further delay in the start of the season could negatively impact cropping activities in the region.

During the next week, a wet weather pattern is forecast to prevail across West Africa. Heavy downpours are expected over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, northern Cote d'Ivoire, western Burkina Faso and farther east over Nigeria and southern Niger. Thus, the risks for flooding exist over previously-flooded or saturated areas.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 20 – June 26, 2018

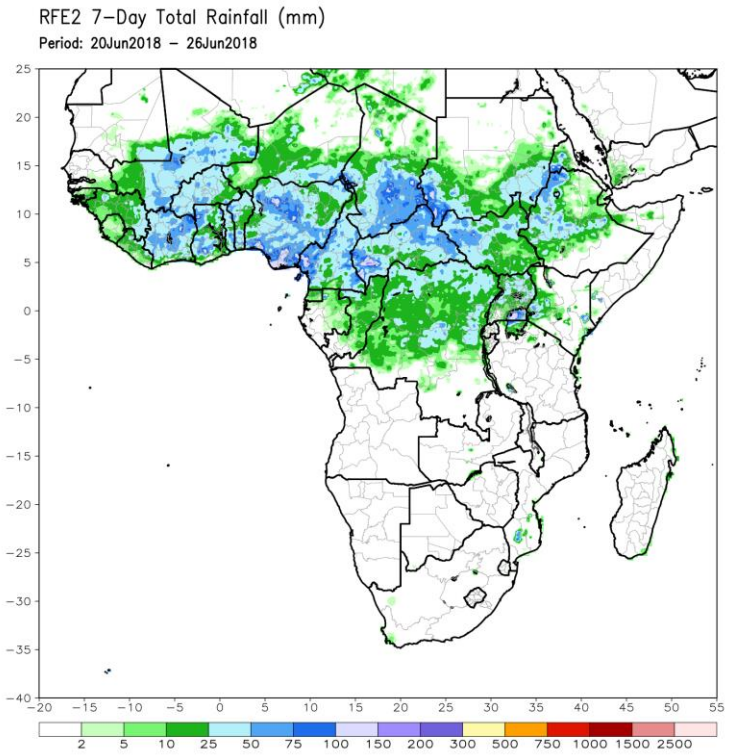


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Above-average rain observed over eastern Africa over the past thirty days

Over the past thirty days, eastern Africa received abundant and above-average rain. Rainfall surpluses between 50-100 mm were recorded throughout southern and eastern Sudan, northern South Sudan, western Ethiopia, southern Eritrea, eastern Yemen, and western Kenya (**Figure 2**). Over Sudan and South Sudan, the wetness was partially attributable to a substantial anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front during the second dekad (10-day period) of June. During the past week, moderate to heavy rain fell over western Ethiopia, South Sudan, and southern Sudan. This past week's abundant rain and strong winds resulted in the destruction of homes and many affected people over the Zalingie area of central Darfur of Sudan, according to reports. While average to above-average rain has benefited agricultural activities over areas of Sudan, consistent rain could also pose threats for flooding and water-borne disease outbreaks over some areas.

An analysis of the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomaly has indicated that average to above-average conditions prevailed over eastern Africa, except localized areas of west-central Ethiopia, which were affected by an uneven rainfall distribution during the previous cycle.

During the next week, moderate to locally heavy rain is expected to continue over western Ethiopia and Eritrea. Moderate rain is forecast across southern Sudan and South Sudan.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 28 – June 26, 2018

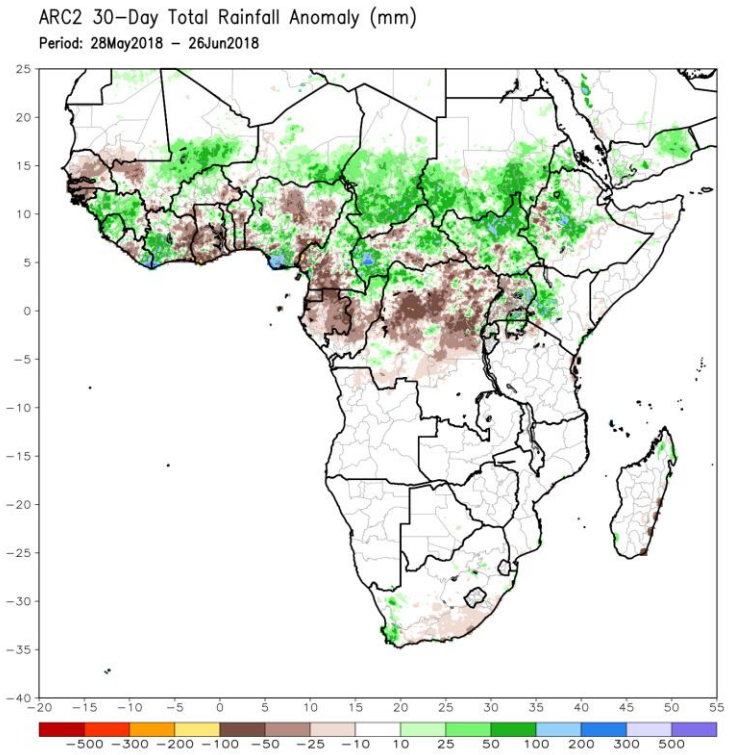


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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